(5) Reiteration of instructions to Central and State Government departments to provide priority treatment to the requirements of approved 100 per cent EOUs.

Tribunal to settle excise and customs cases

*31. SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:

SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a high level tribunal to settle expeditiously excise and customs cases which drag on for months and years in the courts; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) A proposal to set up a high powered Customs and Excise Revenue (Appellate) Tribunal under Article 323B of the Constitution, for more expeditious settlement of cases, is under consideration.

(b) Detailed proposals are being worked out in consultation with the Ministry of Law.

Vacant posts of Chairman and Members in the Nationalised Banks

*32. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the posts of Chairmen and non-official members are lying vacant in a large number of nationalised banks;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when these vacancies are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) At present there are no vacancies of Chairmen and Managing Directors in the nationalised banks. There are, however, vacancies of non-official directors in the Boards of all the 20 nationalised banks. The process of selecting suitable persons for nomination against these vacancies is under way.

Demand for increasing the price of sugarcane

@*33. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a strong demand from the farmers to increase the price of sugarcane;

(b) what price Government have fixed for sugarcane in the last two years; and

(c) what were the demands of the farmers to increase sugarcane price and to what extent Government have accepted their demands?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) The farmers have been representing from time to time for higher prices of sugarcane payable by sugar factories.

(b) For the current sugar season i.e. 1985-86, the statutory minimum price of sugarcane payable by sugar factories has been fixed at Rs. 16.50

@Previously Starred Question 13 transferred from the 21st February, 1986.